

By: Reynolds

H.B. No. 2451

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT
2 relating to a proxy for a member of the legislature visiting a
3 facility operated by the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

5 SECTION 1. Section 501.010, Government Code, is amended by
6 amending Subsection (a-1) and adding Subsection (a-2) to read as
7 follows:

8 (a-1) The institutional division shall allow the governor,
9 members of the legislature, persons designated under Subsection
10 (a-2), and members of the executive and judicial branches to enter
11 at proper hours any part of a facility operated by the division
12 where inmates are housed or worked[7] for the purpose of observing
13 the operations of the division. A visitor described by this
14 subsection may talk with inmates away from institutional division
15 employees.

16 (a-2) A member of the legislature may designate a person to
17 serve as the member's proxy for the purpose of observing the
18 operations of the institutional division as authorized by
19 Subsection (a-1). A designation made under this subsection is
20 valid until the earlier of:

21 (1) the second anniversary of the date that the person
22 is designated under this subsection; or

23 (2) the date the member ceases to be a member of the
24 legislature.

1 SECTION 2. Section 507.030, Government Code, is amended by
2 amending Subsection (a-1) and adding Subsection (a-2) to read as
3 follows:

4 (a-1) The state jail division shall allow the governor,
5 members of the legislature, persons designated under Subsection
6 (a-2), and officials of the executive and judicial branches to
7 enter during business hours any part of a facility operated by the
8 division[7] for the purpose of observing the operations of the
9 division. A visitor described by this subsection may talk with
10 defendants away from division employees.

11 (a-2) A member of the legislature may designate a person to
12 serve as the member's proxy for the purpose of observing the
13 operations of the state jail division as authorized by Subsection
14 (a-1). A designation made under this subsection is valid until the
15 earlier of:

16 (1) the second anniversary of the date that the person
17 is designated under this subsection; or

18 (2) the date the member ceases to be a member of the
19 legislature.

20 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2017.